



GROUP 224 NEWSLETTER

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Official Newsletter of Group 224 – NJ075 U.S. Air Force Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol

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“Setting The Standard”

SAFETY PLEDGE: As a Civil Air Patrol member I pledge to promote an uncompromising safety environment for myself and others, and to prevent the loss of, or damage to Civil Air Patrol assets entrusted to me. I will perform all my activities in a professional and safe manner, and will hold myself accountable for my actions in all of our Missions for America.



Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.

– President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Pineland members fly a KC10 mission!

- by MAJ Ron Wiley

On Sunday, March 12, 2006 Pineland Squadron, Lakewood, New Jersey participated in a KC-10 air refueling "orientation" flight from McGuire AFB, New Jersey.



There were 8 cadets and 8 senior members aboard. Senior members included:

Major Ron Wiley - Group 224 Commander, Lt. Frank Shinn - Pineland Squadron Commander, Major Steve Tracy, Captain Bill Garoniak, Lt. Steve Foster, Lt. Raul Estrada, Lt. Mark Rios. SM Michael J. Sylvester
Cadets included: Jeremy Gebo, Yoko Wakamatsu, Christopher M. Sylvester, Kevin Nixon, Mark Garoniak, Kenneth Lake, Mathew Schmidt and Shawn Pecht.

The trip was for 4:00 hours. The flight departed North and flew over New England all the way to Maine and back to New Jersey. Cadets and seniors were given the opportunity to view another air tanker refueling the KC10 being flown and to view from the boom operator's compartment the refueling of a "giant" C17 USAF aircraft.

All cadets were excited and expressed their appreciation to the USAF for this learning opportunity.



National Commander's Citation Verses the Commander's Commendation Award

**By Lt. Colonel Gregory F. Weidenfeld, CAP
New Jersey Wing Historian**

At a group meeting a while back, a friendly debate arose over the significance of the National Commander's Citation as opposed to the Commander's Commendation Award. This was generated in part by the ribbons shown in the computerized "ribbon checkers" that now appear on many CAP web sites. A little lesson in Civil Air Patrol history will clear all the confusion up.

The Commander's Commendation is a more recently created award designed to fall in line with the Military Services to recognize dedication to service and duty. It is the lower of four such awards the CAP gives: Distinguished Service Award, Exceptional Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, and the Commander's Commendation Award. The Commander's Commendation can be awarded by the National Commander, Region Commander, or Wing Commander, thus the difference between a National and Wing Commander's Commendation. Regardless of what level it is awarded from, the same ribbon and miniature medal is worn to represent it.

The National Commander's Citation is the old Senior Member Training Award for Level V. This award is incorrectly listed as the National Commander's *Commendation* on the ribbon checkers. CAP regulations of the period as well as the inscription on the mess dress miniature medal identify it as the National Commander's Citation.

At the time this award was given, the Gill Robb Wilson Award was given for Level IV. In the late 70's, the program was revised and the National Commander's Citation was discontinued. The Gill Robb Wilson Award was changed to become the new Level V award, and the Paul E. Garber award was created and became the new Level IV award.

When the old awards existed, the CAP was still wearing the old plastic "Mickey Mouse" ribbons (ribbons that used pictures and odd designs). When the CAP redesigned all the ribbons to look like real military ribbons, it was decided that there would be no new ribbon to represent the

National Commander's Citation. Instead, members who had completed Level V under the old program would wear the Gill Robb Wilson ribbon, "upside down". If you look at the colors on the ribbon portion of the miniature medals for both of these awards, you will see they are the reverse of each other, thus wearing the same ribbon in reverse on the blue service uniform would match.

As an added note, the old awards were made in both cloth, and plastic coated "ever clean" versions. Initially, the Garber Award was made in plastic, though for a very brief time. The modern revised "professional" design Senior Training ribbons were only made in cloth. If the Commander's Commendation Award was ever made in plastic, it is indeed a very rare item!



Original Senior Training Ribbons



**Senior Training Ribbons with
Garber Award Added**



Current Senior Training Ribbons



**Modern Commander's
Commendation, Gill Robb Wilson
Award, and National Commander's
Citation.**

**Got a question on CAP uniforms or
insignia?** Submit your questions to Lt. Col
Weidenfeld at caphistoryguy@aol.com.